

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE COA

Meeting Notes

9:30 - 11:00 am

September 8, 2022

ZOOM

In Attendance: Ryan Wilson, Morris Klein, Barbara Selter, Janice Zalen, Joyce Dubow, Eddie Rivas, David Engel (note taker), Wayne Berman

Staff: Shawn Brennan

Nursing Home Inspections: Shawn reviewed the status of the Public Policy Committee (PPC) letter that was sent out to eight Maryland (Montgomery County) State Delegates. Those responding to the letter included Del. Reznik, Del. Feldman, Del. A. Kelly, and Sen. B. Kramer.

Background: The letter addressed the lack of oversight and surveys being done for the approx. 35 nursing homes in Montgomery County since the MD OHCQ eliminated the positions of the Montgomery County surveyors and replaced the positions with State employees.

The Committee discussed the next steps to get a response to the questions raised in the letter.

1) Target the Oversight Committee on Quality of Care in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities whose members include the State LTC Ombudsman Stevanne Ellis. Shawn reported that the Committee admits the State is way behind in its responsibility for annual surveys and due to staffing will be up to speed by 2025. There is another meeting of this Committee in October. 2) Request that the Montgomery County Council get a report on the status of complaints, and information on the required annual surveys

The PPC is in agreement that the Memorandum of Understanding (the agreement that Montgomery County employees will perform the surveys and follow up on complaints) is unlikely to be reinstated.

Conversation on possible other actions the Commission could take ranged from suing the State for non-performance of a CMS-required task to requesting a study to be provided. The CoA is not aware of any documented violations or current adverse situations that have been caused by the lack of oversight. It was resolved to approach the three Delegates and one Senator on an individual basis to provide responses to the questions raised in the aforementioned letter. **Did Ryan volunteer?**

The PPC discussed the six new women Democratic nominees for County Council. The discussion resulted in the decision to inform and educate the new County Council Members after the November election by sending them a welcome email that would include the CoA Briefing book and possibly inviting them to a CoA meeting. It was also discussed whether the CoA should include the County Council at the CoA Legislative Breakfast.

The PPC requested a spreadsheet or at least as thorough a document as possible to see how the ARPA funds are allocated. Shawn agreed to track it down.

The PPC discussed the upcoming 2023 Maryland Legislative session to determine issues the CoA could be proactive prior to bills being submitted starting in January. Topics included the 1) OHCQ issue 2) exploring what bills failed last year 3) explore what the CoA would like to see changed in current law

Regarding the new Governor and administration: there is an opportunity to influence the new administration with regards to older adult issues. Eg. Address the staffing shortages that delay approval of “plans of care” required for residents to receive Medicaid waiver services. The PPC agreed the CoA should put in motion the communications to the expected new Governor and/or both nominees about the OHCQ issues. The PPC agreed there should also be an effort made to request a new Secretary of Aging with a background in the AGING field.

The CoA Legislative Breakfast is normally an annual event held in November or December. In order to try and find a calendar date that will result in the highest attendance possible from the Montgomery County Delegation, inquiries will be made to lock in potential days and times. The event is TBD as virtual or in-person.

Adjourn: 11:01